



Trailwinds

Summer 2008

Dakota Chapter 72

Presidents Report

As the summer months seem to be cranking along at a jack rabbits' pace, and we edge ever so closely to the end of my term, I often find myself dwelling on all the good things that have taken place this year and still today. At the International Education Conference in Austin, Texas this past June, there were many things our chapter can be proud of: (1) Chapter 72 received verbal kudos during the International Board of Directors Meeting for the cash donation to the children's book drive, (2) The International Education Foundation commended us on the \$3,454 donation from our live auction proceeds this past February, (3) Amy Spilman was recognized for her designation as an SR/WA, (4) Region 3 officers commended Chapter 72 on being the first chapter within our Region to submit our proposed amended by-laws to IRWA Legal Counsel, and (5) the knife donated by our chapter was among the highest auction items in Austin.

As a follow up to our success with the Region 3 Spring Forum in Deadwood, Chapter 72 had an article published in the July/August 2008 issue of the IRWA magazine. Chapter 72 member, David Anderson, was also recognized in that issue for his class coordinator efforts which resulted in a \$500 incentive reimbursement to our chapter. And last but not least, our membership drive continues to go strong with 11 new members to-date in 2008 which assures that our chapter will be in a strong position to handle whatever the future may hold for us.

Speaking of the membership drive, I had mentioned in an earlier message that we were on pace for 18 new members this year and that I thought it was definitely achievable. I am even more convinced of this now with 11 new members after only 7 months of the membership drive and I am aware of potentially two more coming on board soon. Our current membership as of the date of this report stands at 72 which is outstanding for our chapter. The drive will continue through the end of the year with the members, who recruit the most new members during this drive, winning an IRWA wind shirt. I urge you all to make one contact in the coming months with the intent of bringing on a new member to our chapter. Remember, this is your chapter and the success lies largely in all our actions. Also at stake are bragging rights at next year's International Education Conference. If we can recruit enough members to have the highest percentage of growth, it could result in Chapter 72 being named the 2008 Chapter of the Year. How nice would that sound?

As a reminder, our next meeting is scheduled to be held in Sioux Falls, SD on August 22nd at 11:00 a.m. in Ulteig Engineers new office located at 5701 South Corporate Place, Sioux Falls, SD. We unfortunately had to cancel the 501 class due to a lack of attendees, but the meeting must still go on and lunch will be provided. In order to prepare for this meeting, please give some thought to potential nominees for our 2008 Employer of the Year and Professional of the Year.

With that, I hope to see you all at the meeting in Sioux Falls and that summer does not get away from you too soon.

Sincerely,

Mike Murray

Chapter 72 President, SR/WA, RW/NAC

Greetings Chapter 72! I hope this finds you having a great summer, and for once it isn't in the 90s day after day after day....

But what a great way to start the summer. Chapter 72 and Region 3 had a tremendous showing at the International Conference in Austin, Texas in June. In fact, every chapter president from Region 3 was in attendance, as were most of our Region 3 International Committee representatives. Our region is one of the most active, most successful, and most talked about amongst the International Executive Committee (IEC) and staff. Keep up the good work!

It's a ways into the future, but plan on attending the conference next year in Indianapolis, if you can. We'll be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the IRWA and it should be a grand time.

A topic being discussed at this time by the IEC and region chairs is a proposal to realign the regions and what chapters may be in those regions. The region chairs have been directed with the task of realigning the regions to bring more equity to each region. There is a region with only three chapters, and another with 14 chapters. You can imagine the challenges. Region 3, of course, consists of six chapters.

Our region boundaries have become outdated as we've grown, and the region boundaries are really only administrative, and we need to look beyond these boundaries. And the REAL work of the organization gets done at the chapter levels anyway. The IEC would like a recommendation from the region chairs by November 1, 2008. I look forward to discussing this with you in the coming weeks, as we strive to do what's best for our membership in the *next* 75 years.

Chapter 72 – keep up the great work and know that Region 3 is at your service.

Best Regards,

Craig Poorker, SR/WA, R/W-NAC

Region 3 Chair

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IRWA DAKOTAS CHAPTER 72

May 2, 2008

President Mike Murray called the meeting to order at Basin Electric Power Cooperative in Bismarck, ND at 8:00 am. Attendees were: Kelly Suko, Bob Larson, Kenn Haugen, David Anderson, Valeree King, Shad Erdmann, Kurt Donelan, Duffy Heinle, Ron Golden, Shelley Vetter, Angie Kluck, Michelle Schroeder, Scott Monroe and Stephen Miller.

Approval of Minutes and Treasurer's Report

Motion by Bob Larson, second by Kenn Haugen to approve February minutes. Motion carried.

Motion by Ron Golden, second by Bob Larson to approve Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Region 3 Report – Craig Poorker by Mike

Make everyone aware of the Austin conference; get as many people there as possible.

Region 3 is looking at realignment; keep same number of Regions, reassign chapters to different regions – where does Chapter 72 belong? Mike stated that the chapter is doing just fine and it would not benefit us to change. Chapter 72 supports staying with Region 3.

Balfour Award nominees from Region 3 are: Craig Poorker and Rita Rasmussen.

Great River Energy received the Small Employer of the Year Award, Ottertail lost by 1 point.

COMMITTEE REPORTSEducation Committee – Kelly Suko

Everything is going good. Yesterday's class was full with 27 students. Class materials arrived with no problem, except the course evaluation came in late. Next class will be 501 - in Sioux Falls, South Dakota on August 21 & 22. Ron Golden is class coordinator. Class 205 will be in Fargo, ND on October 30 & 31. Valeree King will be class coordinator. Class 801 will be in Deadwood in February. Mike and Don will work on a site. IRWA course pricing is going up.

LPA – Kurt Donelan

Lots of articles on website, interesting reading. George Papacek is not interested in ND committee report chair. Kurt will take both ND & SD committee report chair.

Motion by Bob Larson, second by Ron Golden to approve Kurt as ND & SD LPA Committee Chair. Motion carried.

C & M – Bob Larson

Present membership is at 64, 4 people have dropped out.

Nothing has been changed on the website, not much support from International like there used to be.

PDC – Kenn Haugen

Daryl Brandt (not present) received his R/W-NAC Certification.

Amy Spilman received her SR/WA Designation.

Nominations – No ReportNewsletter – Valeree King

Keep sending in articles – ANYTHING! There were too many pictures from Deadwood; she will put them on a CD and send to you if you request a CD.

Valuation – Valeree King

Nothing to report until after the June conference.

Program – Don Hellman

Return to Deadwood in 2009. Cadillac Jacks apologized and wants us back.

Environment – No Report

Pipeline – Mike Murray

Never anything updated – it is 2 years old.

Asset Management – Jack Holt by Mike Murray

Take the bat tour in Austin.

Relocation – Ken Brilz by Mike Murray

Seven relocation sessions offered in Austin.

Five proposed new relocation courses up for approval.

Transportation – No Report

Survey – No Report

Utilities – Ron Golden

Not much going on there.

OLD BUSINESS

By-laws – Have been updated. Motion by Ron Golden, second by Kenn Haugen to approve submitting proposed updated By-laws to IRWA legal council for approval. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Region 3 Auction Items – Bob Larson suggested that more Terry Redlin prints be purchased for auction items. Valeree will check out the website. The Executive Committee will make the decision on how much to spend for the Redlin prints. Black Hills Gold pin has been purchased.

Knife – engraving is not done yet.

Auctioneer for Austin's live auction called and is asking for items. During the conversation, Mike told him that Chapter 72 will be spending \$1,500 at the auction and he was pretty impressed!

Directors to the Austin conference will be Mike Murray and Amy Spilman. Shelly Vetter, Angie Kluck and Kelly Suko will also be attending.

Book Drive - \$66 from the live auction in Deadwood will go towards the book drive.

Chapter taxes are done.

Conflict of Interest Statement – Committee chairs need to sign statement and give to Amy to keep on file.

Mike wrote an article about the Deadwood anniversary celebration, submitted it to International, and it will be published in the July/August issue of the *Right-of-Way Magazine*.

Region 3 donated \$100 for the anniversary celebration; a thank you letter was sent to them.

The location for the 501 course and next meeting will be in Sioux Falls.

\$50 drawing – Scott Monroe

Motion by Bob Larson, second by Valeree King to adjourn. Motion carried.



UPCOMING MEETINGS

August 22, 2008; 11:00 a.m. – Chapter 72 meeting; Ulteig Engineers, Sioux Falls, SD (lunch will be provided)

October 29, 2008; 5:30 p.m. – Chapter 72 meeting; Cass County Electric Cooperative; Fargo, ND (this will be a “dinner” meeting)

UPCOMING CLASSES

October 29 & 30, 2008; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – C-205 (Bargaining Negotiations) – Cass County Electric Cooperative, Fargo, North Dakota



MEETING AGENDA

IRWA DAKOTA’S CHAPTER 72

ULTEIG ENGINEERS, INC.

SIOUX FALLS, SD

AUGUST 22, 2008

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|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Open meeting, 11:00 a.m. | Mike Murray |
| Approval of last meeting minutes | as printed in handout |
| Approval of Treasurer’s Report | as printed in handout |
| Region 3 Report | Mike Murray |
| • Fall Forum? | |

Committee Reports

Awards	Amy Spilman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation 	
Education	Kelly Suko
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course 501 cancellation • Course 205, October 29 – 30, 2008 • Course 801, February 4 - 5, 2009 • Chapter Incentive Program 	
Local Public Agency (ND & SD)	Kurt Donelan
Communications and Marketing (formerly Membership)	Bob Larson
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership Drive 	
PDC	Kenn Haugen
Nominations	Bob Krava
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 Employer of the Year nominations • 2008 Professional of the Year nominations • Chapter 72 Education Chair 	
Newsletter	Valeree King
Valuation	Valeree King
Program	Don Hellman
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadwood, SD Feb. 2009 	
Environment	Paul Mahlen
Pipeline	Mike Murray
Asset Management	Jack Holt
Relocation	Ken Brilz
Transportation	Ken Brilz
Survey	Russ Nelson
Utilities	Ron Golden
<u>Old Business</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chapter 72 By-Laws submitted • Region 3 Auction items 	Mike Murray Mike Murray
<u>New Business</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on 2008 Annual Conference in Austin, TX • Conflict of Interest Statement • Article on Chapter 72's 30-year milestone 	Attendees Mike Murray Mike Murray

- Next meeting location & course 205, October 29 & 30 Mike Murray
- Additional items?
- \$50 drawing
- Adjourn

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If you have any news about you or your family that you would like to share, please send me a note ... and pictures! These are several very happy happenings in August ...

08/08/2008 *Son Lucas James joins Shad & Kristin and sisters Gracie & Bailey Erdmann. Shad is a Property & Right-of-Way Assistant with Basin Electric.*

08/10/2008 *Daughter Lindsey is home on leave from Iraq to spend time with her parents, Kelly & Holly Suko. The Suko's son, Nick, is also stationed in Iraq. Kelly is a Property & Right-of-Way Specialist with Basin Electric.*